



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series

Supports Session 10: Forgives

Sermon Title: "Obstacles to Forgiveness"

Passage: Luke 5:17-26

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### Connection to Luke 5

Four men brought a man who was unable to walk to Jesus. All five men demonstrated faith in Jesus, overcoming obstacles to do so.

### Introduction/Opening

Most of us see the obstacles ahead. It seems sometimes that we are more adept at seeing the obstacle than we are at seeing the possible routes around or over that obstacle. For every route over something, some can think of four more obstacles to that same route. The obstacles can cause us to lose hope, which leads to inactivity. If there is no hope, then why try? In Luke 5, we find a group of men who overcame some obstacles and found hope in the process. That hope was tied to their faith in Jesus.

### Outline

#### 1. Two Challenges

- a. The four friends who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus encountered the first challenge. Perhaps they came knowing about miracles Jesus had wrought. Perhaps one of them had been healed of a disease. Of this one can only guess. They came and found the house was crowded and the door was blocked (Mark 2:2).
- b. The second challenge is the fact that the man was paralyzed. His muscles would not function. Perhaps he suffered an injury. Perhaps he suffered, in our terms, a stroke. Perhaps he couldn't speak. He was in a debilitated and debilitating situation. Maybe he was able to speak well enough to tell his friends or relatives to carry him to Jesus.

#### 2. One Roof

- a. These men overcame the first challenge by digging a hole in the roof of the house.
- b. Imagine the scene. The Lord Jesus is teaching to a crowded room, and suddenly a sound is heard from above. Then parts of the roofing materials begin to fall on the crowd. Surely, they began to back themselves against the wall of the house to be free from the falling debris. When the opening was complete, no doubt they all looked toward it and then saw a man being lowered on his stretcher or pallet. They lowered him down right in front of Jesus. To this point, from the time this man was paralyzed to now, this man lived without hope. And now he is where everyone who has a need should be: in front of Jesus.
- c. Taking a person to Jesus may require some work.

## 2. One Faith

- a. The second challenge was about to be overcome by faith. Jesus saw their faith. Whose faith did Jesus recognize? Was it the faith of the four who carried the paralytic or was it the faith of the five men together?
- b. The friends demonstrated faith in Jesus by bringing the man to Jesus.
- c. Jesus' declaration of the man's sins being forgiven attested to the man's faith. His physical condition was acute, but his spiritual condition was worse. What he needed most was forgiveness, which he received.
- d. Those who come to Jesus by faith enjoy the forgiveness of sins.

## Conclusion

Forgiven—what an essential word for the human/divine conversation. There is no one who, because of sin, is past the reach of Jesus. Jesus has the power to forgive and will do so if a person will come to Him. A man once asked his pastor, “Is there any hope for me?” The immediate response from the pastor was, “You are still breathing aren't you?” He received the Lord Jesus that very day. There is hope in Jesus and forgiveness full and free.

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*Neil Gant is a native of Memphis and now lives in East Tennessee serving as Pastor of the Oakwood Baptist Church in Knoxville since March of 2019. He has served in pastoral ministry for over thirty-nine years. He has been married to the former Lea Gillespie for over thirty-nine years and they have one adult daughter named Anna. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Blue Mountain College and both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.*

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